

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

***Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1,
line 3 immediately after the title:***

-- This is a 371 National Stage application of International application no. PCT/FR2004/000850, filed April 6, 2004, which claims priority to French application no. 03/04285, filed April 7, 2003. The entire contents of the above-referenced applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.--

***Please insert the following section heading at page 1,
line 11:***

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

***Please insert the following new section heading and
paragraph at page 4, at line 6:***

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a composition of at least one crystalline metal oxide, especially in the form of nanoparticles in dispersed form and having at least substantially uniform forms and dimensions. The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of such a composition having forms and dimensions of the particles which can be predicted and controlled in a precise manner, especially which may have form anisotropy, in particular may be elongated (discs, ribbons, threads, rods, spheres, etc.).

The invention aims also to permit the preparation of such a composition which may be in the form of a colloidal liquid solution. --

Please insert the following section heading and description of the drawings at page 4, immediately after the newly added paragraph for the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 depicts nanorods having an average size of 10 nm x 5 nm obtained using the experiments in Example 1 showing the effect of the initial concentration of the resulting nanoparticles.

Figure 2 depicts nanorods of 15 nm x 5 nm obtained using the experiments in Example 1 but with a starting solution having a precursor concentration of 0.125 mol.l⁻¹.

Figure 3 depicts nanospheres of 13 nm obtained using toluene in place of THC to form the starting material in the experiment of Example 2.

Figure 4 depicts nanospheres of 7 nm obtained using heptane in place of THC to form the starting material in the experiment of Example 2.

Figure 5 depicts nanospheres of 14 nm obtained using anisole in place of THC to form the starting material in the experiment of Example 2.

Figure 6 depicts nanorods of 15 nm x 5 nm obtained using HDA in the experiment of Example 2.

Figure 7 depicts nanorods of 10 nm x 3 nm obtained using octylamine (OA) in the experiment of Example 2.

Figure 8 depicts nanospheres having an average size of 9 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 3.

Figure 9 depicts nanospheres of 12 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 3 but using octylamine (OA) as ligand.

Figure 10 depicts nanorods having an average size of 16 nm x 7 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 4.

Figure 11 depicts nanorods having an average size of 15 nm x 5 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 5.

Figure 12 depicts nanospheres of 5nm and nanorods of 10 nm x 5 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 6.

Figure 13 depicts nanospheres of 7nm obtained in the experiment of Example 7.

Figure 14 depicts crystalline nanoparticles approximately 50 nm in size and having facets obtained in the experiment of Example 8.

Figure 15 depicts crystalline nanoparticles less than 10nm in size and having facets obtained in the experiment of Example 9.

Figure 16 depicts crystalline nanoparticles obtained in the experiment of Example 10.

Figures 17a and 17b depict supercrystals composed of crystalline nanoparticles of 2.8 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 11.

Figure 18 depicts nanoparticles of indium oxide In_2O_3 of 4.8 nm obtained in the experiment of Example 12.--

Please insert the following section heading at page 4, immediately after the newly added sections for the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION and the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--